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News Release

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 DCHD NR 2014-011 Contact:

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'Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet' Event Set For Saturday, April 26

(Clearfield, Utah) – Several local, state, and federal agencies and community organizations are partnering with an over-the-counter and prescription drug "take-back" event to prevent increased pill abuse, theft, and harm to the environment; as well as self-harm and suicide attempts.

Convenient collection sites are available on Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

"While we have permanent medication collection boxes in the lobbies of most of our police departments, this event provides another opportunity and a reminder for families to clean out their medicine cabinets and have the drugs safely destroyed," said Bountiful City Police Chief Tom Ross.

Smith's

Layton

1170 E. Gentile

Bountiful
555 S. 200 W.

Syracuse

Bountiful
1316 N. Hwy 89

555 S. 200 W.

Sunset

951 W. 1700 S.

Macey's

Clinton

2062 W. 1800 N.

Woods Cross Police Department

2353 N. Main St.

Woods Cross
1555 South 800 West

Hill Air Force Base*

(* Access restricted to those with proper base ID)

Hill Medical Clinic, Building 570, 7321 Balmer Street

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According to organizers, this event addresses vital public safety and public health issues. "When community members participate in this take-back day, they help reduce the risk of accidental poisoning, as well as misuse and abuse of prescription drugs," said Brandon Hatch, CEO of Davis Behavioral Health. "Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including those in the home medicine cabinet."

Lewis Garrett, director of the Davis County Health Department, said, "Many people do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away. Unfortunately, both methods are potential safety and health hazards impacting the environment," he said. "We encourage everyone to take advantage of this event to make our homes and communities a safer place to live."

"Once a prescription is issued, pharmacists cannot take them back," said Debi Todd, Davis Behavioral Health Prevention Coordinator. "That is why we are working with the police departments who can legally take possession of these medications."

Sponsors and partner agencies for this medication take-back event include Davis Behavioral Health, Davis County Health Department, Davis County Law Enforcement agencies, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Utah Poison Control Center, Hill Air Force Base, United States Drug Enforcement Administration, Layton Communities that Care, Bountiful Communities that Care, and the Davis HELPS coalition.

To find permanent disposal bins, call the Utah Department of Environmental Quality Hotline at 1-800-458-0145 or visit www.useonlyasdirected.org.

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